

From: Jim Cromie
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:02pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Gentlemen,

I appreciate this opportunity to add my voice against the Microsoft Settlement.

My one fear of this feedback process is that you will be buried by email generated by a concerted grass-roots lobbying effort by Microsoft, who are no doubt enlisting the support of 'interested parties', such as shareholders, employees, business and marketing partners, etc.

The idea that the 'remedy' is to allow Microsoft to 'give' their product to grade schools all over the country is a thinly veiled marketing ploy.

They are giving away hardware only, the software has strings attached.

Schools are where Apple products are most competitive with Microsoft, and this plan is a way to subsidize their competitive battle with Apple.

I much prefer a settlement along the lines described by the CEO of Red Hat,

Fines levied against Microsoft are used to grant cash to the school systems, who can then purchase what they want, w/o strings attached. Microsoft then competes with Apple and everyone else on a level playing field, based on the cost of their bid, and the features and support it includes.

thank you